

Peer Support Specialists Working Group
Office of Wellness and Resilience
Office of the Governor, State of Hawai'i

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

October 23, 2024

10:00am-12:00pm

Members Present via Zoom (14/17): Tia Hartsock (OWR Director), Cynthia Chappell (Department of Education), Greg Uwono (Judiciary), Judy Mohr Peterson (med-QUEST Administrator), Reina Purvis (Statewide Office of Housing and Homelessness), Heather Lusk (Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center), Samantha U'u (EPIC Ohana), Kimmy Takata (Pu'a Foundation/PPC), Kathy Hammes (NAMI Hawai'i), Lindsay Pacheco (Project Vision Hawai'i/Hawai'i HOME Project & Lived Experience Homelessness & Substance Use), Cynthia Kaneshiro (Hawai'i Certified Peer Specialist), Michael Vincent (DLE Director), Debbie Victor Macalino (Pu'a Foundation), Scott Shimabukuro (CAMHD)

Members Absent (3/17): Amy Naylor (DOH/AMHD), Joseph O'Connell (Caregiver with Lived Experience, Unfilled position (Director of DOH/designee)

Guests Present (17) Anisa Wiseman (NAMI Hawai'i), Malia Daraban (Hawai'i Families As Allies), Tim Hansen (Hawai'i County), Ashley Viluan (EPIC 'Ohana), Tiffany Ramos-Duh (EPIC 'Ohana), Christine Montague-Hicks (EPIC 'Ohana), Kristina Shibata (EPIC 'Ohana), Amanda Mundon (EPIC 'Ohana), Andi Sabanal (EPIC 'Ohana), Kayla Samson (EPIC 'Ohana), Corinna Sosa (EPIC 'Ohana), Tianna Webster (EPIC 'Ohana), Bridgette Bennett (Judiciary-Family Court), Telesia Pasese (OWR), Leilani Willing (OWR), Nannie Ann Apalla (OWR), Jodie Burgess (OWR)

Support Staff Present (3): Naomi Leipold (OWR Project Manager), Kailene Nihipali-Sanchez (Co-Facilitator), Kimberly Nabarro (Co-Facilitator)

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDATIONS/ ACTIONS/ CONCLUSIONS
<p>I. Call to Order; Review and Approval of Agenda; Approval of Minutes; and Welcome and opening remarks</p>	<p>Tia Hartsock (Chair) called the meeting to order at 10:04am. Quorum established with fourteen (14) working group members in attendance.</p> <p>Tia Hartsock (Chair) called for a motion to approve the meeting agenda.</p> <p>Tia Hartsock (Chair) asked for any corrections, deletions, and comments to the September 25, 2024, meeting minutes.</p> <p>Tia Hartsock (Chair) informs attendees of a technical correction to minutes: Remove the last name "Peacock", which was entered twice.</p> <p>Welcome and Opening Remarks by Tia Hartsock (Chair).</p>	<p>Tia called for a motion to approve the meeting agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moved: Judy Mohr Peterson (med-QUEST Administrator) • Second: Lindsay Pacheco (Project Vision Hawai'i/Hawai'i HOME Project) • Approved: by verbal statement of "aye" • Nay: none • Agenda has been approved <p>Tia called for a motion to approve September 25, 2024, PSSWG Meeting Minutes and all community meetings with technical corrections listed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion: Heather Lusk (Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center) • Second: Lindsay Pacheco (Project Vision Hawai'i/Hawai'i HOME Project) • By verbal roll call: all in favor • Abstained from vote: none <p>Tia invited attendees to utilize the Q&A box if anyone had questions.</p>

<p>II. Agenda, Focus, & Goals for today and for the Peer Support Specialists Working Group</p>	<p>Kimberly Nabarro (Co-Facilitator) shared the agenda for this meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pilina builder • Reviewing ground rules • Connecting with each other • Discuss Vice Chair role • Peer support in different spaces within the Working Group • Discuss the framework Working Group <p>Kailene Nihipali-Sanchez (Co-Facilitator) asked the question: “How do you feel about change?” as the pilina builder. Four Working Group members were invited to share their statement:</p> <p>Reina Purvis (SOHHS) stated that they enjoy the challenges and opportunities that change brings. They also shared Judy Mohr Peterson’s (med-QUEST Administrator) response which included feeling both excited and nervous about change.</p> <p>Heather Lusk (Hawai’i Health & Harm Reduction Center) said that change can bring forth fear, but also inspires dreams of what is possible. They also shared Amanda Mundon’s response, which stated that change could be uncomfortable, but is also an opportunity for growth.</p> <p>Cynthia Chappell (Department of Education) said that change brings forth feelings of excitement and creativity. They shared Christine Montague-Hicks’ (EPIC ‘Ohana) response, which included feeling both excited and nervous about change.</p>	<p>Kailene Nihipali-Sanchez (Co-Facilitator) encouraged participants to answer the question in the chat.</p>
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	<p>Greg Uwono (Judiciary) stated that change can be scary at first, but it may be for the better. They shared Malia Daraban's (Hawai'i Families As Allies) response, which mentioned that feelings can vary depending on the type of change.</p>	
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<p>III. Designation of Vice Chair of Peer Support Specialist Working Group</p>	<p>Tia Hartsock (Chair) designates Kimmy Takata (Pu'a Foundation/PPC) as the Vice Chair.</p>	
<p>IV. Public Comment and Input: for anyone who cannot stay for the agenda item(s) in question</p>	<p>Kailene Nihipali-Sanchez (Co-Facilitator) asked attendees who may not be able to stay for the duration of the meeting, if they would like to comment to please use Zoom to “raise your hand” so a facilitator can invite them to share.</p>	<p>No comments.</p>
<p>V. Discussion on framework to be established by the Working Group</p>	<p>Kimberly Nabarro (Co-Facilitator) invites three Working Group members to answer the following question: “If the group is successful in establishing the framework, what would be the benefit for you; including your agency, program, and those you serve?”</p> <p>Debbie Victor Macalino (Pu'a Foundation) answered by stating that it would strengthen their leadership role, enhance their ability to create impactful programs, increase funding and grants, and offer a clear roadmap for implementing peer support initiatives.</p> <p>Judy Mohr Peterson (med-QUEST Administrator) said that the framework could bring consistency, standardization, and expansion regarding the availability of services and peer supports.</p>	<p>Kimberly Nabarro (Co-Facilitator) invited participants to uplift speakers and answer the questions in the chat.</p> <p>Tia Hartsock (Chair) and Naomi Leipold (OWR Project Manager) included more information about trauma-informed care and the six principles into the chat.</p>

Lindsay Pacheco (Project Vision Hawai'i/Hawai'i HOME Project) said that a successful framework can allow a baseline to be created, as well as a standard, that will allow organizations to implement peer support.

Tia Hartsock (Chair) emphasized the importance of utilizing a trauma-informed care lens when creating the framework and shared a visual on the six principles of trauma-informed care.


Cynthia Kaneshiro (Hawai'i Certified Peer Specialist) commented that there may be resistance to change and that advocacy may be needed.

Heather Lusk (Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center) shared the major tenants of harm reduction which includes: meeting people where they are, ensuring everything is person-centered, and treating everyone with respect and nonjudgement.

Debbie Victor Macalino (Pu'a Foundation) agreed that there may be resistance to change and that offering perspectives that people can relate to can make it easier.

Kailene Nihipali-Sanchez (Co-Facilitator) invited Working Group members to share why a framework model is needed from a trauma-informed lens and what their hopes and dreams are regarding the framework.

Samantha U'u (EPIC Ohana) said that change will happen and that individuals will learn to grow with it. There is hope that all organizations, including

	<p>feeder schools, will offer trauma-informed training sessions, similar to CPR certification.</p> <p>Scott Shimabukuro (CAMHD) does not anticipate too much resistance, but rather excitement.</p> <p>Kathy Hammes (NAMI Hawai'i) stated that a framework will help people recognize the value and importance of the work of peer-support specialists.</p> <p>Cynthia Chappell (Department of Education) shared her dream of a standard certification process for peer support specialists that could be offered in-state.</p> <p>Tia Hartsock (Chair) emphasized how PIGs are going to be utilized to bring forth the opinions and viewpoints of the local communities regarding the framework.</p>	
<p>VI. BREAK</p>	<p>Kailene Nihipali-Sanchez (Co-Facilitator) reminds working group members about quorum and Sunshine Law.</p> <p>Returned from break at 11:15 am.</p>	
<p>VII. Introduction and discussion on different types of peer support</p>	<p>Kailene Nihipali-Sanchez (Co-Facilitator) asks the Working Group members, "Why do we need an inventory of the current use of peer support specialists, who would be included, and what does this mean and look like to you?"</p> <p>Heather Lusk (Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center) asks what the difference is between peer support and lived experience.</p>	<p>Kailene Nihipali-Sanchez (Co-Facilitator) encourages participants to answer the questions in the chat.</p> 

	<p>Corinna Sosa (EPIC 'Ohana) clarified that someone with lived experience doesn't necessarily make them a peer support. Peer support specialists in EPIC 'Ohana work directly with youth, where special training and supervision is needed.</p> <p>Cynthia Kaneshiro (Hawai'i Certified Peer Specialist) hopes to see lived experiences as equal to a bachelor's degree.</p> <p>Kathy Hammes (NAMI Hawai'i) stated that there is a lack of information regarding peer support specialists and that acquiring more information will inform others on how to employ and pay peer support specialists.</p> <p>Heather Lusk (Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center) stated that due to the diversity of ways that peers support people, creating an inventory and having a framework will assist in identifying who is implementing the best practice and peers vs who might need more support.</p> <p>Tia Hartsock (Chair) discussed the different requirements on a federal level regarding the framework, inventory and PIGs.</p>	
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VIII. Public Comment	<p>opens the meeting for public comment.</p> <p>Kayla Samson (EPIC 'Ohana) commented on how having a peer support inventory will create an opportunity for peers to understand and support one another in their respective roles. Kailene Nihipali-Sanchez (Co-Facilitator)</p>	
IX. Closing and Adjournment	<p>Kimberly Nabarro (Co-Facilitator) summarized the meeting and thanked everyone for their participation and involvement in the meeting.</p> <p>Kimberly Nabarro (Co-Facilitator) shares the points of discussion for the next meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PIGs • Timeline review <p>Kimberly Nabarro (Co-Facilitator) wraps up the meeting by asking several Working Group members, "What are you taking away with you from today's meeting, something new or something you will enhance that you are already doing, to inform your work moving forward?"</p> <p>Greg Uwono (Judiciary) is looking forward to learning more about what was discussed during the meeting.</p> <p>Kathy Hammes (NAMI Hawai'i) really enjoyed the conversation about trauma-informed care and is excited to see how a good balance can be found within the framework.</p>	<p>Kimberly Nabarro (Co-Facilitator) invites participants to email the Peer Support Specialists Working Group email about any topics that they would like to be included in the agenda.</p> <p>PSSWG email: gov.peers@hawaii.gov</p> <p>Kailene Nihipali-Sanchez (Co-Facilitator) invites participants to answer the question in the chat.</p>

	<p>Heather Lusk (Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center) shared how she is inspired about how much impact peer support can have in creating a different world.</p> <p>Samantha U'u (EPIC Ohana) is looking forward to seeing how PIGs will be utilized in the Working Group.</p> <p>Michael Vincent (Department of Law Enforcement) commented on how peer support officers are legally allowed to speak to law enforcement deputies during internal investigations since the conversations cannot be used in administrative or criminal proceedings.</p> <p>Tia Hartsock (Chair) asked if there were any other comments and thanked the facilitators for their involvement in the meeting.</p> <p>Meeting ended at 11:55 am due to the zoom webinar getting disconnected.</p>	
<p>Public Comments made during the duration of the meeting:</p>	<p>Facilitators posed the question: As a working group, we're gathered with together serving different roles around peer support. The working group is tasked with establishing a framework for peer support specialists and other tasks. This means possible change. How does change make you feel?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tiffany Ramos-Duh: Depends on the type of change. If it's a good change, it's an amazing feeling where it's like all things are working out. If it's not the greatest, I may feel some anxiety. • Ashley Viluan: change for me is uncomfortable but being uncomfortable is a sign of growth • Kristina Shibata: worry and excitement for opportunity • Christine Montague-Hicks: excited and nervous 	

- Amanda Mundon: echoing Ashley's comment! Change can be uncomfortable but opportunity for growth!
- Kayla Samson: Change makes me feel nervous but excited for growth and new beginnings
- Anisa Wiseman: change is the only thing I know is truth and can always be expected, sometimes it hurts but it always brings new beginnings
- Andi Sabanal: Change makes me feel excited, nervous and uncomfortable all at once.

Facilitators posed the question: Why do we need a framework? What are your hopes and dreams for the framework? What are your fears?

- Anisa Wiseman: We have so many peers in our community who struggle with jobs and finances. It will give peers a foundation to stand on and empower them to use their life experience to help others. This brings them out of the revolving door of crisis and into stability. The families are in crisis just like their loved ones are, when we have healthy families we have healthy communities. Most of the time our families are supporting our peers and on the edge of crisis themselves, struggling with finances to support their loved one, as well as time and energy. It would release the families of these burdens they carry that are so heavy.
- Scott Shimabukuro: I think different places are doing good work on the peer support effort independently but hopefully this work group can get us to work in sync with each other and move together.
- Anisa Wiseman: Something else that I'm thinking about as we are talking about trauma informed care is health insurance. how do we make sure that while implementing this system our peers can maintain health insurance...whether they are on quest or disability or whatever. trauma informed care means we know relapse is part of recovery. if we get them on this path and they are able to go off disability or quest or whatever and then they relapse and they lose all those services. I just want to make sure we are keeping these things in mind. How do we make sure they don't fall down again.
- Corinna Sosa: A framework is so important because it will provide the needed structure for peer support work to flourish and to ensure that we are aligned with practices that will best serve our families. My hope is that this field will continue to grow and be seeing as a valuable resource and service Statewide. My fear is that there won't be buy-in, that spaces will not be set up to provide the trauma-informed supervision and support that our peers need to grow. We need to make sure that

this role is understood not just by the peer supports themselves but also the agencies/systems that they work in.

- Kathy Hammes: A framework will help people recognize the value and importance of Peer Support Specialists' work and contributions to our community. My concern is that a framework must offer flexibility as well as structure, consistency and standardization.
- CJ Chappell: We need a framework, a standard certification process for all support peer specialists as well as individualized training re: specialized lived experience certification in the state of Hawaii. I feel that our people should not have to go all the way to the Continental US for certification. How can we support our peer support specialists and people here?
- Kimmy Takata: A framework model is essential for several reasons, especially in the context of peer support and organizational development:

1. Consistency and Structure: A framework provides a clear, structured approach to delivering services or implementing programs. It ensures that everyone involved is working toward the same goals, using the same methods, which leads to more consistent outcomes across the board.

2. Scalability: With a solid framework in place, it's easier to replicate successful models in different locations or with different groups. It allows the program to grow while maintaining quality and effectiveness.

3. Accountability: A framework sets standards and guidelines that make it easier to track progress, measure success, and identify areas for improvement. This level of accountability is crucial for evaluating the impact of peer support programs and securing ongoing funding or support from stakeholders.

4. Efficiency: When processes and procedures are clearly outlined, it saves time and resources.

- Heather Lusk: a framework will help uplifts, support and compensate peers appropriately. A framework ensures that peers are not exploited or tokenized by agencies and that agencies create sanctuaries for peers to thrive.
- Scott Shimabukuro: I brought up the idea of developing a statewide billable peer support with MQD. While none of us had the answers or solutions, everyone said yes we want that!

Facilitators posed the question on why an inventory of peer support is needed, who would be included, and what does this mean and look like to you?

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cynthia Kaneshiro: I would like to see lived experience as an equivalent to having a bachelor's degree.• Kathy Hammes: Ideally we could access information on available PSS staff, their skills, knowledge, experience and use that to make decisions in our organizations and workplaces. That way we know what changes might be needed at the individual, agency and care system levels.• Heather Lusk: We need an inventory to detail where peers are across our islands so that we can identify champions, training opportunities, p/p and creating a clearinghouse of best practices• Cynthia Kaneshiro: I would like to know how many Hawaii Certified Peer Specialists are in the state.• CJ Chappell: It would be good to find out what we have in the state already established: how many Peer Supports are there, where and in what areas. In education there are other role groups and areas where peer support specialists could be helpful, for example: Foster Care, Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Blind and Visually Impaired just to name a few.• Kathy Hammes: We can recognize that accessing Medicaid billing puts PSS in competition with others using Medicaid funding.• Tiffany Ramos-Duh: It'll help us know who else is doing the same work throughout the state. So many of us don't know about other programs and their similarities/differences/ qualifications. |
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